



# FORESTRY NEWS



## Rock Creek Fire

The Rock Creek Fire was discovered on the longest day of the year: June 21, 2013 at 9 AM. It quickly increased in size due to the heat and low relative humidity and headed northeast. Local firefighting resources tried stopping the fire but became overwhelmed with the fire's intensity and called for reinforcements.

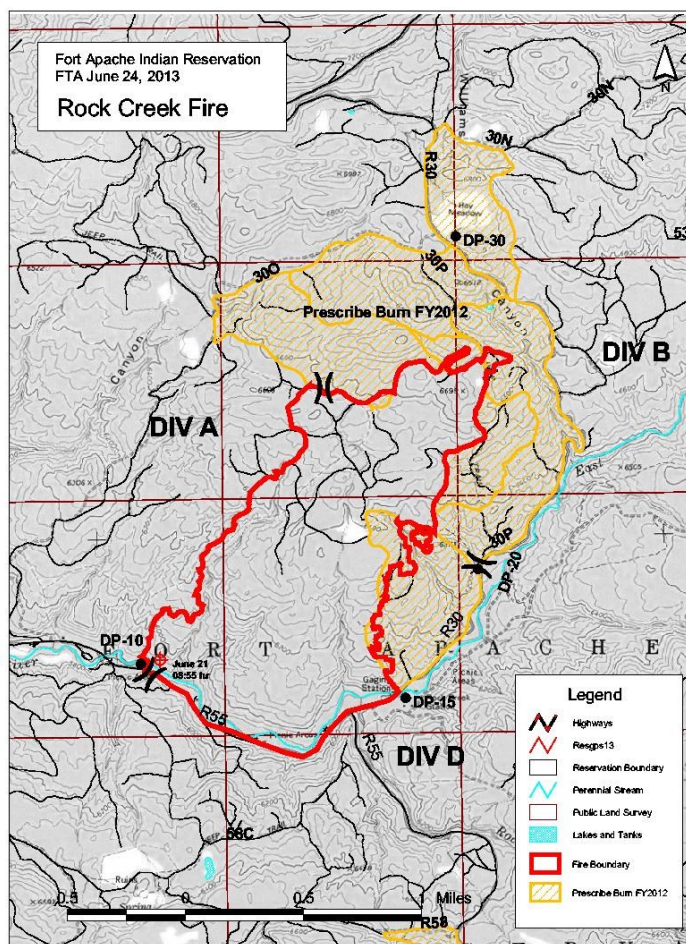


The Eastern Arizona Type II Incident Management Team led by John Philbin responded quickly and the complete transition occurred at 6 PM on June 22nd. Five days later, during the team's closeout meeting, several team members credited the previous work done during a 2012 prescribed fire as being the primary factor in stopping the forward spread of this fire. The Operations Section Chief (T) summing up the suppression actions that occurred stated, "One good thing is we had the prescribed burns already in place." This proved especially important during the red flag days when the wind was especially strong.



This sentiment was reiterated by the Deputy Superintendent at this same meeting who remarked "If we didn't have the prescribed fire out there, think what could have happened." Councilman Clinton Kessay also attended the closeout meeting and probably summed it up best when he addressed the Team: "Maybe we will learn that the

thing that caught the fire was the proactive work we did before the fire." Later in a radio address to the community he stated "Thankfully we had people who were actually planning the prescribed fires." He also stated "We can thank the past forest management practices and the firefighters for stopping the fire."



Map Showing Relationship of the Rock Creek Fire & the 2012 Prescribed Burn